

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A device docking apparatus comprising:

a wall switch plate to be fastened to a light switch module on a wall, the wall switch plate having a receptacle to hold a portable electronic device;

a control charging module including electrical contacts to contact corresponding electrical contacts on the portable electronic device, the control charging module also including a printed circuit board and an integrated circuit; and

an AC power input to supply power to the portable electronic device when the portable electronic device is docked in the device docking apparatus, wherein power from the AC power input is converted to DC power by the control charging module so that the power may be used to charge the portable electronic device when the portable electronic device is docked in the device docking apparatus.

2. The device docking apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a data transceiver on the device docking apparatus to allow the device docking apparatus to send and receive data via power wires coupled to the AC power input.

3. The device docking apparatus of claim 2 wherein the data is sent and received from a network.

4. The device docking apparatus of claim 3 wherein the network is Internet.

5. The device docking apparatus of claim 2 wherein the data is sent and received from a second device docking apparatus.

6. The device docking apparatus of claim 2 wherein the portable electronic device is capable of sending and receiving data from the device docking apparatus when the portable electronic device is docked in the device docking apparatus.

7. The device docking apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a wireless transceiver base on the device docking apparatus to allow the device docking apparatus to send and receive data via a wireless transfer protocol.

8. The device docking apparatus of claim 7 wherein the data is sent and received from a network.

9. The device docking apparatus of claim 8 wherein the network is Internet.

10. The device docking apparatus of claim 7 wherein the data is sent and received from a second device docking apparatus.

11. The device docking apparatus of claim 7 wherein the portable electronic device and device docking apparatus are capable of sending and receiving data between each other via the wireless transceiver base.

12. The device docking apparatus of claim 7 wherein the wireless transfer protocol is IEEE 802.11b.

13. The device docking apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a wireless transceiver base located separately from the device docking apparatus to send and receive data via a wireless transfer protocol.

14. The device docking apparatus of claim 1 wherein the receptacle on the wall switch plate is a dock.

15. The device docking apparatus of claim 1 wherein the AC power input supplies 120 V power to the portable electronic device.

16. The device docking apparatus of claim 1 wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

17. The device docking apparatus of claim 1 wherein the portable electronic device is a display module.

18. The device docking apparatus of claim 17 wherein the display module includes a plurality of buttons and a user interface.

19. The device docking apparatus of claim 1 wherein the portable electronic device is a cellular phone.

20. A device docking apparatus comprising:

a power outlet plate to be fastened to a power outlet module on a wall, the power outlet plate having a receptacle to hold a portable electronic device;

a control charging module including electrical contacts to contact corresponding electrical contacts on the portable electronic device, the control charging module also including a printed circuit board and an integrated circuit; and

an AC power input to supply power to the portable electronic device when the portable electronic device is docked in the device docking apparatus, wherein power from the power input is converted by the control charging module so that the power may be used to charge the portable electronic device when the portable electronic device is docked in the device docking apparatus.

21. The device docking apparatus of claim 20 further comprising a data transceiver on the device docking apparatus to allow the device docking apparatus to send and receive data via power wires coupled to the AC power input.

22. The device docking apparatus of claim 21 wherein the data is sent and received from a network.

23. The device docking apparatus of claim 22 wherein the network is Internet.

24. The device docking apparatus of claim 21 wherein the data is sent and received from a second device docking apparatus.

25. The device docking apparatus of claim 21 wherein the portable electronic device is capable of sending and receiving data from the device docking apparatus when the portable electronic device is docked in the device docking apparatus.

26. The device docking apparatus of claim 20 further comprising a wireless transceiver base on the device docking apparatus to allow the device docking apparatus to send and receive data via a wireless transfer protocol.

27. The device docking apparatus of claim 26 wherein the data is sent and received from a network.

28. The device docking apparatus of claim 27 wherein the network is Internet.

29. The device docking apparatus of claim 26 wherein the data is sent and received from a second device docking apparatus.

30. The device docking apparatus of claim 26 wherein the portable electronic device and device docking apparatus are capable of sending and receiving data between each other via the wireless transceiver base.

31. The device docking apparatus of claim 26 wherein the wireless transfer protocol is IEEE 802.11b.

32. The device docking apparatus of claim 20 further comprising a wireless transceiver base located separately from the device docking apparatus to send and receive data via a wireless transfer protocol.

33. The device docking apparatus of claim 20 wherein the receptacle on the power outlet plate is a dock.

34. The device docking apparatus of claim 20 wherein the AC power input supplies 120 V power to the portable electronic device.

35. The device docking apparatus of claim 20 wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

36. The device docking apparatus of claim 20 wherein the portable electronic device is a display module.

37. The device docking apparatus of claim 36 wherein the display module includes a plurality of buttons and a user interface.

38. The device docking apparatus of claim 20 wherein the portable electronic device is a cellular phone.

39. A method of using a device docking apparatus comprising:
placing a portable electronic device in a receptacle of the device docking apparatus, the device docking apparatus fastened to a module on a wall;
supplying power to the portable electronic device docked in the device docking apparatus from power wires connected to the module;
receiving data from a network through the power wires to the device docking apparatus via a data transceiver on the device docking apparatus; and
transferring the data to the portable electronic device when the portable electronic device is docked in the device docking apparatus.

40. The method of claim 39 further comprising:
transferring data from the portable electronic device to the device docking apparatus when the portable electronic device is docked in the device docking apparatus;
and
sending data from the device docking apparatus to the network through the power wires.

41. The method of claim 39 wherein the network is a remote network.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein the remote network is Internet.

43. The method of claim 39 wherein the network includes another device docking apparatus.

44. The method of claim 39 further comprising inputting information to the device docking apparatus using a user interface on the device docking apparatus.

45. The method of claim 39 wherein the module on the wall is a light switch module.

46. The method of claim 39 wherein the module on the wall is a power outlet module.

47. A method of using a device docking apparatus comprising:
placing a portable electronic device in a receptacle of the device docking apparatus, the device docking apparatus fastened to a module on a wall;
supplying power to the portable electronic device docked in the device docking apparatus from power wires connected to the module;
receiving data from a network to the device docking apparatus using a wireless transfer protocol via a wireless transceiver base coupled with the device docking apparatus; and
transferring the data to the portable electronic device.

48. The method of claim 47 further comprising:

transferring data from the portable electronic device to the device docking apparatus; and

sending data from the device docking apparatus to the network through the wireless transceiver base.

49. The method of claim 47 wherein the network is a remote network.

50. The method of claim 49 wherein the remote network is Internet.

51. The method of claim 47 wherein the network includes another device docking apparatus.

52. The method of claim 47 further comprising inputting information to the device docking apparatus using a user interface on the device docking apparatus.

53. The method of claim 47 wherein the module on the wall is a light switch module.

54. The method of claim 47 wherein the module on the wall is a power outlet module.